

Applicants : CHUI, et al. Atty. Dkt. No. : 1187-PCT-US
USSN : 10/576,984 Art Unit : 3612
Filed : Nov. 28, 2006 Date of office action: August 6, 2008
Examiner : Lori L. Lyjak Date of response : January 5, 2009
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REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 3-5, 7, 11, 13, 16-18 and 20 are currently amended.

Applicants hereby respectfully request the entry of this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending and under examination in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13 and 17 are objected to because of informalities. The alleged informality recited for claim 5 by the Examiner appears to be in error, as no such phrase was used in the claim. Applicants submit that claims 3, 4, 7, 11, 13, 16 and 17 have been amended as helpfully suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims have been amended to obviate the objections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is rejected for reciting "filtration and/or scrubbing". Applicants submit that claim 5 has been amended to recite "filtration or scrubbing".

Claims 18 and 20 are rejected for reciting "air-conditioning system and/or a waste discharge system". Applicants submit that

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the air conditioning system and the waste discharge system are to be considered as separate but complementary modules of utilities or supply services such as the ventilation system, plumbing system, electrical supply system recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 18 to recite "one or more systems selected from the group consisting of a ventilation system, a plumbing system, an electrical supply system, an air-conditioning system, and a waste discharge system".

As the above amendments merely affect the claims' formality, there is no addition or broadening of subject matter not already disclosed in the original specification.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that claims 5, 18 and 20 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 1-4, 6-17 and 19 are allowable, and claims 5, 18 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action.

Applicants believe that all grounds of objections and rejections raised in the current Office Action have been fully addressed, and the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly,

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Applicants respectfully request favorable action to be rendered by the Examiner.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below. No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this communication. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1891.

Respectfully submitted,

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